Air Force Research Laboratory | AFRL

Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Aerospace Forces

Success Story

DR. ROBERT SPRY APPOINTED "FELLOW" OF AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

The selection of Dr. Robert J. Spry as a "Fellow" of the American Physical Society (APS) recognizes individual achievement and enhances AFRL's reputation as a world leader in materials research and development. His contributions to science advanced the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate's in-house research efforts in areas directly benefiting the warfighter, strengthened national security, and greatly influenced the study of physics.

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Achievement

The APS recently named Dr. Spry a "Fellow" of their 40,000-member organization. Dr. Spry of the directorate's Nonmetallic Materials Division earned the appointment for outstanding lifetime achievement in physics, including major contributions to the Air Force and the Department of Defense during more than 33 years of service to the nation. His efforts resulted in a number of critical advancements supporting operational and future systems vitally important to national security. The Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics of the APS recognized Dr. Spry for important contributions to semiconductor defect spectroscopy, analysis of nonlinear optical devices, and polymer conductivity and optical properties.

Background

The APS, created over 100 years ago, is the cornerstone in the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of physics, and the primary membership organization for physicists in the United States, as well as a significant force in physics, internationally. The APS Fellowship program recognizes members who made advances in knowledge through original research and publication, or made significant contributions in the application of physics to science and technology. The APS elects no more than one-half of one percent of the organization's membership to "Fellow" status in any given year.

Dr. Spry received his doctorate degree in solid state physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He joined the directorate's Electromagnetic Materials Division in 1967, performing research in semiconductors, light-emitting diodes, laser windows, and infrared detectors. Later, he developed experimental devices and pioneered directorate studies that measure infrared luminescence, absorption, and spectral photo conductivity in semiconductor materials at low temperatures.

In 1981, Dr. Spry performed research in nonlinear optics and optical filters, and eventually carried the nonlinear research effort on to the directorate's Polymer Branch, in addition to starting a new program in polymer conductivity. He mentors many students at Wright State University (WSU), where he serves as adjunct professor, and at the Air Force Institute of Technology. As a long-time science fair judge and advocate, he served on the West District (WSU) Science Fair Council since 1983. Dr. Spry is the author of 65 publications and patents, and 90 scientific presentations.

Additional information

To receive more information about this or other activities in the Air Force Research Laboratory, contact TECH CONNECT, AFRL/XPTT, (800) 203-6451 and you will be directed to the appropriate Laboratory expert. (01-ML-02)